

Comments on texts resulting from the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission
Report – January 2005 Meeting
Submitted by the United States of America

APPENDIX 3.X.X.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SURVEILLANCE
OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

The United States commends both the Code Commission and Scientific Commission for developing a surveillance appendix for AI that is both flexible and feasible to apply. The Appendix is well organized and well thought out. We do recommend deleting Article 3.x.x.6 which is a very short Article in the Appendix.

~~Article 3.X.X.6.~~

~~NAI-free establishments within HPNAI-free compartments~~

~~The declaration of NAI-free establishments requires the demonstration of absence of NAIV infection. Birds in these establishments should be randomly tested using virus detection or isolation tests, and serological methods, following the general conditions of these guidelines. The frequency of testing should be based on the risk of infection and at a maximum interval of 21 days.~~

Rationale: The United States recommends deleting this short article in the Appendix (Article 3.x.x.6), because, unlike the rest of the recommendations found in this Appendix, this Article appears to be prescriptive and only addresses the issue of *establishments* in the specific case of HPNAI free *compartments*. Furthermore, the actual health measures recommended for export of poultry and poultry products are already clearly outlined in the proposed Code Chapter for Avian Influenza, Chapter 2.7.12.